

## *Aedes albopictus* IN MUZQUIZ CITY, COAHUILA, MEXICO

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**ABSTRACT.** *Aedes albopictus* was found in M. Muzquiz, Coahuila, Mexico, in the summer of 1993. *Aedes albopictus* larvae were collected in tires and bottles at low density. *Aedes aegypti*, *Toxorhynchites theobaldi*, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, and *Culiseta incidens* were collected in the same containers.

In 1985, in Houston, Texas, a population of *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) was found widespread in urban and suburban areas (Sprenger and Wuithiranyagool 1986). By 1988, the species increased its distribution east of the Mississippi River and into the northern states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, and Delaware (Hawley 1988). By the end of the 1980s, *Ae. albopictus* was officially reported from 42 of 254 Texas counties. A 1992 survey of south Texas added 35 new country records. Some of the new findings were on the border with Mexico (Womack 1993).

The first record of *Ae. albopictus* in Mexico was in 1988 in Matamoros, Tamaulipas state, on the frontier with Brownsville, Texas (Womack 1993). In 1994, the Mexican Health Secretariat recognized 2 other cities with the mosquito. These were Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuña, neighbors of Eagle Pass and Del Rio, Texas, respectively (Ibañez Bernal and Martínez Campos 1994).

In April 1993, during larval sampling in Muzquiz city, a few *Ae. albopictus* larvae were found in rainwater-filled backyard beer bottles and plastic containers along with *Aedes aegypti* (Linn.) and *Toxorhynchites theobaldi* (Dyar and Knab). In November, *Ae. albopictus* was again collected along with *Culiseta incidens* (Thomson), *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say and *Tx. theobaldi*.

Larvae were identified from Carpenter and LaCasse (1955), *Ae. albopictus* from Darsie (1986), and *Tx. theobaldi* from Darsie and Mitchell (1985). Larvae of *Ae. albopictus* were sent to the Instituto Nacional de Diagnóstico y Referencia Epidemiológica (INDRE) of the Mexican Health Secretariat (SSA) in Mexico City for deposition in their collection.

This is a new record in Mexico for *Ae. albopictus*. Muzquiz city is located in the northern part of Coahuila state, with geographic coordinates of 27°52'43"N latitude, 101°31'2"W lon-

gitude (Anonymous 1988). This city is 504 m above sea level, with an annual precipitation of 450–600 mm. The weather is hot and dry with summer temperatures of 25–44°C and winter temperatures of –8 to 10°C. The city covers 8,129 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 40,000. Muzquiz is 175 and 150 km from Ciudad Acuña and Piedras Negras, respectively (Anonymous 1988).

We hypothesize that the mosquito dispersion was by used tires. Collections are continuing in sites near Muzquiz to document additional information about *Ae. albopictus* in this area of Mexico.

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